



AMERICAN OBSERVER

News and Issues—With Pros and Cons

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 30

WASHINGTON, D. C.

APRIL 23, 1956

Here and Abroad

People—Places—Events

PERU BUILDS SHIPS

Peru has become the third country in South America to start a major shipbuilding industry. The other nations are Brazil and Argentina. The government of Peru has installed facilities at a naval yard near the capital city of Lima that will make possible the construction of medium-size ships.

BIG EMPLOYERS

The Census Bureau reports that over 4 per cent of the country's population is employed by federal, state, or local governments. The latest count shows close to 7,500,000 civilian government employees, of which about 2,500,000 work for the federal government, 1,200,000 for state governments, and 3,800,000 for local governments. The total yearly payroll of all government agencies is about 27 billion dollars.

SOVIET AID

The Soviet Union is increasing its help to Red China. Soviet equipment and technical assistance for 55 new Chinese projects will soon be added to the 156 already under construction. These include chemical plants, power stations, and scientific research centers.

WORLD JAZZ

The Voice of America has expanded its music broadcasts to world-wide audiences. A 2-hour program, "Music—U.S.A.," is being beamed to listeners in Africa and the Middle East. The program, which features jazz and popular tunes, has been on the air in Europe for over a year.

WILSON SHRINE

A national appeal is being organized to raise close to \$600,000 for the restoration of Woodrow Wilson's birthplace in Staunton, Virginia. The 3-story brick dwelling was dedicated as a national shrine in 1941. The drive for funds comes during the 100th anniversary year of Wilson's birth.

STILL TALKING

Representatives of the United States and communist China have begun their ninth month of negotiations at Geneva, Switzerland. The envoys first met last August. They are discussing several major issues, including the release of U.S. civilians held in communist China and a Chinese proposal for a conference between Secretary of State Dulles and Premier Chou En-lai.

NEW LINK

Work will begin this summer on a tunnel joining the United States and Canada. The 3,000-foot-long tube will stretch beneath the Fraser River, connecting the west coast of British Columbia with the state of Washington.



SMASHING THE IDOL. Today's Russian rulers are trying hard to discredit the late dictator, Joseph Stalin, whom they once served and praised highly.

Stalin Myth Exploded

Free World Tries to Figure Out Reasons for Bitter Attack on Deceased Dictator by Russia's Present Rulers

FROM 1924 until his death in 1953, Joseph Stalin ruled the Soviet Union with an iron hand. The son of a shoemaker from a small village in Georgia (a Soviet area near the Black Sea), he had become a communist as a young man, and had helped the Reds take over Russia in 1917. Rising through Communist Party ranks, he became dictator over more than one-sixth of the earth.

In non-communist lands, Stalin was regarded as a shrewd and ruthless tyrant. He eliminated his rivals by having them imprisoned or killed. In the 1930's, the Soviet dictator launched a tremendous "house cleaning" of the Communist Party. Thousands were executed by firing squads.

Stalin charged many officers in the Red Army with plotting to overthrow him. They were convicted of treason, and large numbers were executed. It was widely believed abroad that many of these men were not guilty of wrongdoing.

The wartime partnership with the United States did not influence Stalin in the least to give more freedom to his own people. After the conflict ended, many Soviet citizens were charged with crimes and, upon Stalin's orders, were executed or imprisoned.

During all these years, not the slightest word of criticism against the dictator was ever publicly uttered inside the Soviet Union. Newspapers and radio glorified the Russian ruler. Young people were taught to revere Stalin as the greatest living man. His picture appeared everywhere.

But today everything is different. A great campaign is under way in the Soviet Union to lower Stalin's prestige. It was speeded up 2 months ago when the Soviet Communist Party met in Moscow. At a meeting of party officials, Nikita Khrushchev, one of Russia's top men, launched a bitter attack on his nation's former ruler.

What did Khrushchev say about Stalin?

Khrushchev made the following charges, although not exactly in these words: "Stalin was a terrorist who caused many innocent Russians to be imprisoned and executed on false charges. The cruel dictator's blunders weakened the Red Army just before World War II and imperiled the nation."

"Stalin was personally a coward, who fled from Moscow when German armies approached in 1941. During his last years, the Soviet dictator was

(Continued on page 6)

U.S. Still Faces Housing Problem

But Situation Has Improved a Great Deal Within the Last Dozen Years

AN unusual meeting is scheduled to open in our nation's capital today. Albert Cole, head of the U. S. Housing and Home Finance Agency, has invited a number of housewives from all sections of the country to assemble in Washington and describe the types of houses they prefer.

Our federal government plays an important role in the field of housing. U. S. agencies now help many individuals and business firms to borrow money for the construction of homes. Uncle Sam furnishes money to help clear away slums and provide better dwellings for the people who have been living in slum areas.

Government officials, in carrying out these programs, need to know as much as possible about the kind of housing that our people really want. Women who actually take care of homes, says Administrator Cole, are in the best possible position to furnish such information.

Some time ago, Cole asked the nation's housewives for suggestions "on how today's home can be improved." The Women's Congress on Housing, now opening in Washington, consists of about 100 delegates selected from among the large numbers of women who wrote letters in response to Cole's request.

Certain critics of the Eisenhower administration contend that the Women's Congress on Housing is mainly an election-year "publicity stunt." Cole and his supporters strongly deny this, and contend that the conference will yield many valuable ideas on the designing of homes.

In any case, everyone agrees that the subject of housing is an extremely important one. Just after the close of World War II it was frequently mentioned as America's "number 1 problem," because we then faced a severe housing shortage. Millions of servicemen—returning to civilian life—were eager to establish homes of their own, and there weren't enough houses and apartments to go around.

Though the housing situation has improved considerably in recent years, conditions are still far from ideal. Millions of American families continue to live in crowded, unhealthful, and unsightly surroundings. Slum areas are actually expanding in a number of our towns and cities. To the family who can't afford an adequate house or apartment, and to the neighborhood that is filled with slum dwellings, housing is still a serious problem.

Because it is hard to say exactly what constitutes an adequate dwelling, we see many different estimates on

(Concluded on page 2)

Nation's Housing Problem

(Concluded from page 1)

the number of substandard houses and apartments in our nation today. It appears, though, that at least 5,000,000 American families live in slums, and that millions of others are in dilapidated buildings which need replacement or major repairs. In all, according to various estimates, about a third of our people are still poorly housed.

Slums and blighted neighborhoods have a bad influence that extends to the nation as a whole, and not merely to the people who actually inhabit them. Some time ago a California state agency published the following facts in an official report:

"Although slums and blighted districts make up 20 per cent of [city] residential areas in the United States, they account for 33 per cent of the population, 45 per cent of the major crimes, 55 per cent of the juvenile delinquency, 50 per cent of the arrests, 60 per cent of the tuberculosis victims, 50 per cent of the disease, 35 per cent of the fires, 45 per cent of the city service costs—and only 6 per cent of the real estate tax revenue."

Furthermore, slums take an "invisible toll" whose cost cannot be fully reckoned. Such areas discourage and embitter many of the families who live in them. A state governor recently commented that he has seen slum inhabitants "sunk so deep in misery" that they were incapable of any patriotism or desire to serve their country.

But slum areas, harmful and degrading as they are, constitute *only a part* of our national housing problem. There are many families who could by no means be regarded as slum dwellers—but who, for one reason or another, cannot obtain living quarters that meet their needs satisfactorily.

Low-Income Groups

Last year, according to Federal Reserve Board estimates, at least a third of all the families in America earned less than \$3,000 each. Such families can't afford to spend much money on shelter. Generally they must get along in houses and apartments that are too small or in bad condition.

It was in the 1930's that housing became a really serious national problem. A severe depression practically stopped home-building during those years. The shortage became worse in World War II, when nearly all construction materials went into defense plants and military camps.

By the end of the war, there weren't nearly enough dwellings for all our people. Construction had been on a limited scale for about 15 years, and during that same period our popula-

tion had increased by roughly 20,000,000. So, in the middle 1940's, many families were doubling up with friends or relatives. Others "camped" in places that were hardly fit for human habitation.

As soon as building materials became available to meet pent-up demands, the greatest construction boom in our nation's history got under way. By 1949, more than a million homes per year were being built, and this rate is still maintained. Construction work on at least 1,300,000 houses and apartments was begun in 1955.

We are thus making headway on our housing problem, but much remains to be done. It is difficult for our nation to catch up with the backlog of housing requirements that developed during the depression and war years, while trying at the same time to meet the needs created by today's rapid growth in population.

Private Enterprise

Home-building in the United States is mainly a responsibility of private enterprise, with some aid from federal, state, and local government agencies. Federal assistance comes chiefly in the form of insurance programs to help people borrow money for the purpose of buying or building homes. Here is how the system works:

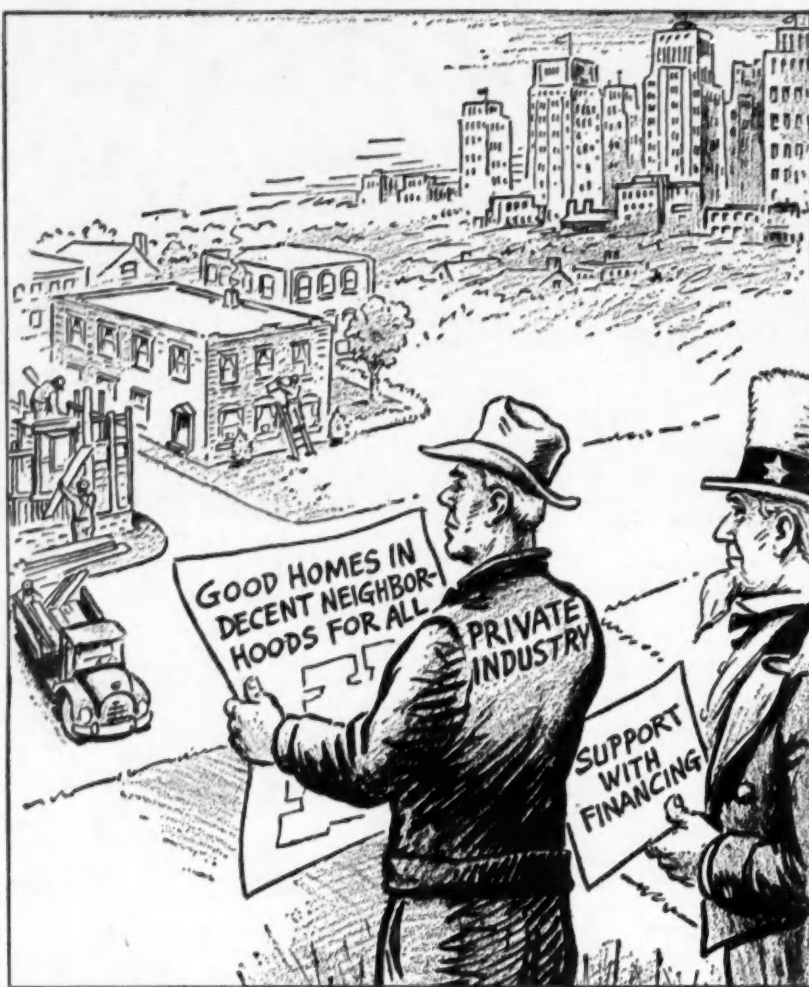
If a prospective home buyer can meet certain standards, the government will back him in obtaining a loan from a bank or some other private lending organization. The government will insure the loan and agree to repay it in case the borrower fails to do so.

Such a guarantee reduces the bank's risk. With Uncle Sam standing behind the borrowers, banks and other firms are willing and able to finance more purchases of homes than if they had to assume all the risks themselves.

Also, the federal government gives financial aid to local communities that build and operate *publicly owned* housing projects for people with low incomes. During the next 2 years, President Eisenhower wants Uncle Sam to help local agencies provide enough new public housing for 70,000 families.

Much controversy arises over the public-housing program. Many people feel that the construction and operation of living quarters should be left entirely to private enterprise. "Public housing is un-American," says the National Association of Real Estate Boards.

Critics of such a program argue: "It is unfair for the federal and local governments to compete with private enterprise in the housing field. No public agency produces food, even



THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT helps many people to purchase homes

though many people don't have proper diets. There is no more reason for the government to carry out socialistic public-housing programs than there is for it to produce food."

Other Americans reply: "The chief aim of the public-housing agencies is to provide decent homes at a price that families with very low incomes can afford. These agencies adjust their rents in accordance with what the tenants can pay. They don't necessarily try to make a profit, as private apartment-house owners must do. Public-housing projects fill a need that couldn't otherwise be met, so they don't actually compete with private enterprise."

Further Disagreement

Among the defenders of public housing, there is disagreement over how many such dwellings should be built. As we have already noted, President Eisenhower wants 35,000 a year for the next 2 years. But Boris Shishkin, of the AFL-CIO, argues that the rate should be 200,000 annually.

Meanwhile, Uncle Sam is helping numerous cities in their efforts to get rid of slums. The federal government provides grants and loans to help communities plan and carry out slum-clearance projects.

Slum clearance, however, is a field

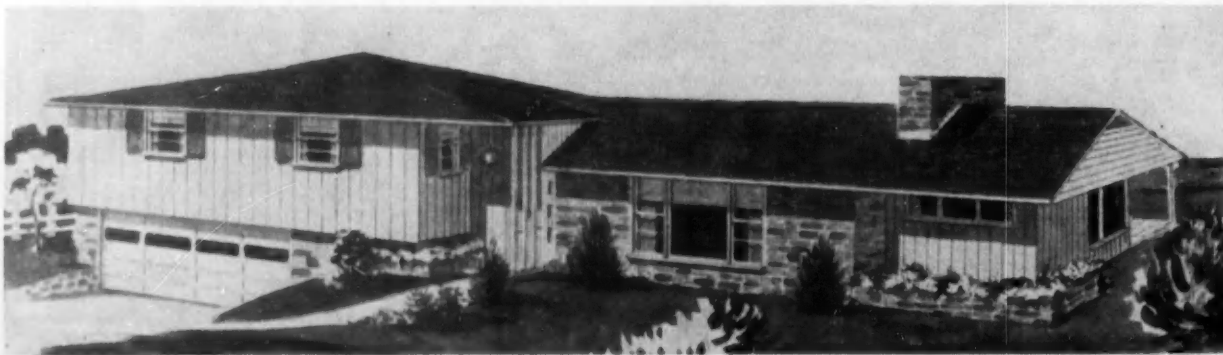
in which the federal government can accomplish little unless there is strong determination within the cities and communities themselves. Before a city can do much about slums and blight, its people need to become aroused over the situation and make their feelings known to local officials.

Getting rid of slums is not easy. The city government—or whatever agency handles the project—must acquire the necessary property from its owners. Often this is a long and complicated job. Large numbers of dilapidated buildings must be torn down, and generally the people who have been living there must receive help in obtaining other homes.

But quite a few communities are finding it possible, despite the difficulties, to make headway against slum conditions. Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Memphis, Miami, Milwaukee, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, St. Paul, and Washington are among the cities that have been taking steps to clear away sizable slum areas.

Cities which carry out projects along this line soon discover that better housing and improved surroundings mean better citizens. Fire hazards, disease, and crime are all reduced as the slums disappear.

—By TOM MYER



THIS SPLIT-LEVEL type of home is one of today's popular styles in all parts of the country

MODERN PLAN SERVICE, INC.

Pronunciations

- Alberto Martin Artajo—ál-bér'tó mār-tén' ar-tá'hó
- Ali Sastroamidjojo—á-lé sá-stró'á-mí-jó'yó
- Bandaranaike—bān'dār-ā-nā'i-ké
- Chou En-lai—jó ēn-lí
- Dag Hammarskjöld—dā hām'mer-shult'
- Izvestia—iz-vés'ti-yā
- Kotelawala—kótél-ā-wā'lūh
- Nikita Khrushchev—nyí-két'uh króosh-chawf
- Nikolai Bulganin—né'kó-lí bōól-gā'nín
- Pravda—prāv'dā
- Reykjavik—rá'kyā-vék'
- Tigris—tí'grís

Your Vocabulary

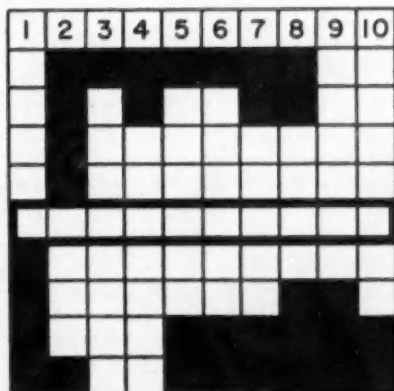
In each of the sentences below, match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are on page 8, column 4.

1. Some scientists claim that evidence of life on Mars is *copious* (kō'pī-ūs). (a) lacking (b) abundant (c) ridiculous (d) uncertain.
2. The western powers are in a *quandary* (kwōn'dū-rī) so far as the Middle East is concerned. (a) predicament (b) dispute (c) stalemate (d) hopeless position.
3. Many foreign observers are *incredulous* (in-kred'ū-lūs) over Russia's claim that she wants peace. (a) encouraged (b) enraged (c) skeptical (d) rejoicing.
4. Technical assistance is a major *component* (kōm-pō'nēnt) of our present foreign policy. (a) deficiency (b) weakness (c) strength (d) part.
5. *Diffidence* (dif'i-dēns) is not a characteristic of the average politician. (a) truthfulness (b) shyness (c) stinginess (d) cowardice.
6. It is difficult to *condone* (kōn-dōn') the actions of traitors. (a) excuse (b) respect (c) explain (d) discover.
7. The plane which was picked up on the radar screen proved to be *innocuous* (i-nōk'ū-ūs). (a) damaged (b) dangerous (c) foreign (d) harmless.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PUZZLE

Fill in numbered vertical rows according to descriptions given below. When all are correctly finished, heavy rectangle will spell the name of a geographic location.

1. United States ally in the Mediterranean.
2. Salt Lake City is the capital of _____.
3. Russia's premier.
4. A southern Russian state (Soviet republic) where rioting recently occurred.
5. _____, a U. S. territory, votes on a constitution this month.
6. Ambassador _____ returned to the U. S. recently to report on conditions in Russia.
7. The federal government helps people build homes by assisting them in getting _____.
8. It is estimated that about _____ million Americans live in slums.
9. Former Russian dictator whom today's Red leaders are attacking as a ruthless tyrant.
10. Land in the North Atlantic.



Last Week

HORIZONTAL: Murphree. VERTICAL: 1. Meyner; 2. Truman; 3. Ireland; 4. Cyprus; 5. Shivers; 6. Jordan; 7. Georgia; 8. Eden.



THIS PLASTIC TOY PLANE is breaking the sound barrier—at a speed of more than 738 miles an hour. The Navy uses the toy models to study the strong shock waves—which cause mysterious “bangs” when planes reach supersonic speeds.

Science in the News

SCIENTISTS have discovered that the ocean is full of noises. By lowering microphones deep into the sea, they have recorded an astounding collection of moans, groans, whistles, and growls made by fish and other ocean inhabitants. Swimmers on the surface of the water cannot hear this symphony of noise, but it continues day after day.

Schools of snapping shrimp participate in this continuous concert by clicking their claws together. Toadfish growl a low but loud note. Some of the loudest noisemakers, such as drumfish and croakers, join in by vibrating muscles against air bladders, creating a tapping sound.

Some of the ocean's inhabitants make noises that scientists can describe only by comparing them to sounds we have heard. For instance, the fish known as sea robins make a noise like a barnyard of squawking chickens. The black whale sounds like a cheering crowd and the sea catfish

like someone hitting an empty barrel.

One south sea fish makes a noise so unusual that scientists say it sounds “as though an elephant were eating a wooden chest.”

The Army has a new television camera and transmitter that is so light it can be carried by 1 man. The device, called the “Creepy-Peepy,” weighs only 55 pounds. It can transmit a picture about half a mile over flat land.

The new unit is run by a battery that can keep it going continuously for 2 hours. The picture is received on a set with a 10-inch screen that can operate on house current or on the electrical system of a jeep.

The “Creepy-Peepy” may be used to transmit actual battle views back to headquarters. An operator can place it in position and withdraw to safety, and the device will record everything within range of its lens as far as a mile away. —By VICTOR BLOCK

Radio-TV-Movies

PLANNING for one of television's most important and popular shows, which is on the air only once every 4 years, has been under way for months. This is the coverage by the major TV networks of the Democratic and Republican conventions which will nominate Presidential candidates.

This year's conventions will take place in August, but the networks have been thinking about them for a long time. What have they been doing, and what must they accomplish between now and August? Let's glance at the schedule of the CBS television network to find out.

Planning Since 1953

Planners have been at work for CBS since 1953, and a man was put in charge of getting ready for the conventions as soon as the 2 parties announced their meeting places. The construction of television facilities has already begun at the Cow Palace in San Francisco, the site of the Republican convention. In Chicago's International Amphitheater, where the Democrats will convene, the networks will use the same facilities they set up in 1952.

Most of the CBS equipment and an

advance crew of workers will arrive in Chicago about a week before the Democrats meet on August 13. The rest of the network's more than 300 technicians, announcers, and other representatives will follow a few days later. These men will be in charge of setting up and operating 12 CBS television cameras. NBC and other networks, of course, are also making elaborate plans for these 2 big events.

Television coverage of the conventions has a great deal of influence on the viewers and on the meetings themselves. It stimulates voter interest by letting millions of Americans watch the candidates of both parties and see the Democrats and Republicans formulate their platforms.

TV affects the conventions in several ways. The parties plan to meet at a time of the day when most people are free to watch television. For example, the Republicans hope to do most of their balloting in the afternoon or early evening, so that viewers in the eastern time zones will still be up. Also, both parties attempt to speed up and dramatize the work of their conventions in order to make them more interesting to the TV audience. —By VICTOR BLOCK

Readers Say—

I think that every state should hold a preferential primary in which Democrats would vote for the man they wanted to head their Presidential ticket, and the Republicans would do the same. This would give the people more of a choice in selecting their leaders. They would not be limited to voting for candidates picked by the party bosses at the nominating conventions if this system were adopted.

JANE HANUS,
Waco, Texas

I believe the present method of electing our President is satisfactory. This system has worked in the past, and we have always had a democratic government. Why should we change to some new, untried way of choosing our leaders?

JAMES BEQUETTE,
DeSoto, Missouri

We should halt the exchange of visitors with Russia. Why should we help our rivals to learn new techniques of manufacturing and farming? Even if we are accused of putting up an “iron curtain,” we must protect our country.

JACQUELIN BALL,
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

Halting the exchange of visitors with Russia would result in less friendly relations with that country. It is important that the American and Russian people become better acquainted and learn to understand each other. Also, we know very little about the Soviet Union, and our visitors there bring back interesting and important information that can be helpful to our government.

FRIEDA RUSSELL,
Prescott, Arizona

We should take the initiative in the cold war and make firm friends of the countries that are on the border line between the free world and communism. When the economy of a country is sound, communism can't get a start. Therefore, we should help to build up the underdeveloped areas of the world so they will not be influenced by communist promises.

VIVIAN SHAY,
Pleasant Hill, California

Plans for long-range aid to foreign countries are of little value because of the risk to our own economy. In promising continued aid abroad, we endanger the security of the nation by putting a drain on our economic system.

PAULETTE LEMAY,
Paterson, New Jersey

The Voice of America fulfills a valuable service by letting people behind the Iron Curtain know what is really happening in other parts of the world. Otherwise, they hear only what their leaders tell them, and do not know the truth.

SAMUEL MOREHEAD,
Hopkinsville, Kentucky

AMERICAN OBSERVER

A text prepared for the study of current history in senior high schools, or the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades. Published by Civic Education Service, Inc., at 1733 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C., weekly throughout the year (except issues of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter, and three issues from the middle of August to the first week in September). Subscription price, \$1.20 a school year or 60 cents a semester in clubs of 5 or more; single subscription \$2.00 a calendar year. For a term shorter than a semester the price is 3½ cents a week. Second-class mail privileges authorized at Washington, D. C., September 15, 1931.

Publications of
CIVIC EDUCATION SERVICE
American Observer The Junior Review
Weekly News Review The Young Citizen
Civic Leader

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The Story of the Week

The Tense Middle East

The entire world is watching the efforts of United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld to arrange for peace between Israel and her Arab neighbors. People everywhere hope he will be able to get the 2 sides to iron out their differences, and the United States is doing all it can to help support Hammarskjöld's peace mission.

President Eisenhower has called on Egypt's Premier Gamal Nasser and Israel's Premier David Ben-Gurion to do everything possible to prevent war in the tense Middle East. The 2 countries, meanwhile, have promised not to "commit any warlike act" except in self-defense.

Over the past week end, our Chief Executive was scheduled to give more details about our policies with respect to the Middle East.

Envoy to Russia

Charles Bohlen, our ambassador to Moscow, has just returned to his post after talks with Secretary of State Dulles and other top government officials. Bohlen gave his views about some of the recent happenings inside Russia (see page 1 story).

Bohlen has been our envoy to Moscow since 1953, after many years of diplomatic service in Russia and other countries. The 51-year-old career diplomat entered the Foreign Service soon after graduating from Harvard in 1927. He was a member of our first diplomatic mission to Red Moscow after we recognized the Soviet government in 1933. Since then he has served in numerous other world capitals, and has helped shape America's policies for dealing with the communist countries.

Because he speaks and understands the Russian language very well, Bohlen has often acted as interpreter in meetings between American and Soviet officials. He attended important World War II conferences, as well as those which took place after the conflict came to an end.

One newsman has said of Bohlen: "Outside of the Soviet government service, there is probably no man in the world today who is better equipped by knowledge, experience, and training to understand what is going on inside Russia today."

At his post in Moscow, Bohlen's day usually begins with a study of *Pravda*

and *Izvestia*—2 leading Soviet newspapers—to keep up with Russian events as described by the government-controlled press. About 2 or 3 times a week, our envoy meets with other American officials stationed in Moscow to discuss significant events in Russia. He also sends frequent dispatches to Washington, giving his interpretations of happenings behind the Iron Curtain.

Push-Button Voting

Oregon's Democratic Senator Richard Neuberger and some other lawmakers want Congress to adopt electric voting machines to speed up balloting when the legislators vote on an issue before them. The Senate is now studying the Oregon lawmaker's proposal.

At present, when each individual congressman is asked to vote "aye" or "nay" on a bill, it sometimes takes an hour or longer to poll all the lawmakers. Senator Neuberger feels that electric voting machines would not only save time, but they would also insure an accurate tally of votes. Under existing balloting methods, the votes sometimes have to be rechecked to insure accuracy.

Opponents of Senator Neuberger's proposal say it would be too costly. They point out that it would cost some \$500,000 or more to install the voting machines in both houses of Congress.

Electric voting machines are used in about 25 state legislatures. There, lawmakers vote "yes" or "no" on an issue by pushing a button or moving a switch. The votes are instantly recorded and counted by the device.

Uncertain Ally

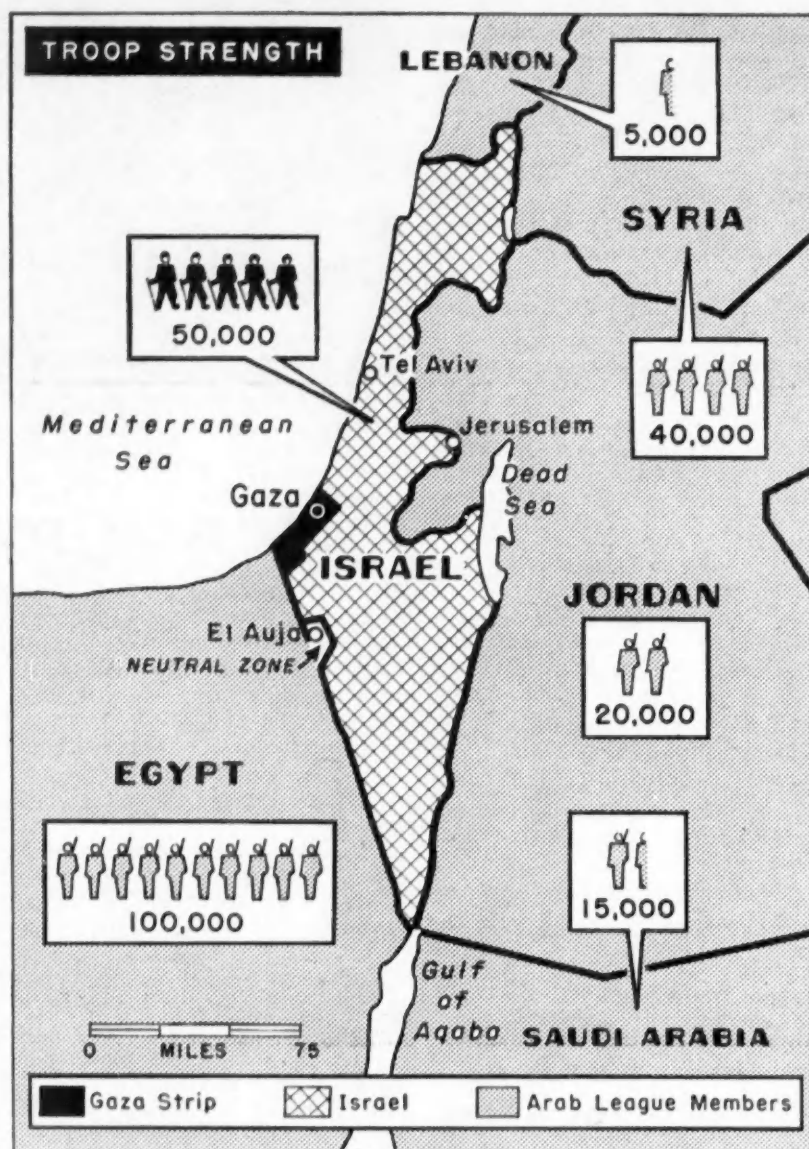
Will Ceylon, an island country just off the southeastern coast of India, switch from pro-western policies to more friendly ties with the communist countries? Western leaders are asking that question now that Ceylon's former government has been defeated at the polls.

Sir John Kotelawala, who has headed a pro-western government in Ceylon since 1953, lost out to the People's United Front Party in elections held earlier this month. The winning group, made up of socialists, communists, and some other parties, is headed by a man with the long name of Solomon West Ridgway Diaz Bandaranaike. He recently became Ceylon's new prime minister.

The Ceylonese elections involved mostly local issues, such as whether English or one of the native languages should be used in official documents. But the winning group has sharply criticized Kotelawala's pro-western policies, and has advocated closer ties with the communist countries. It has also called for an end to British defense bases in Ceylon and withdrawal of that island country from the Commonwealth of Nations, of which Britain is a leading member.

It remains to be seen whether or not Bandaranaike will carry out all the changes advocated by his followers.

The new Ceylonese leader was educated in Britain. In fact, he was a classmate of Anthony Eden, now British Prime Minister, in England's Oxford University. Though not a communist himself, Bandaranaike ap-



ISRAEL reportedly has 50,000 troops under arms now, but some think the figure may be nearer 75,000. She has larger reserves of trained men than do the Arabs. On the other hand, her population is so small that it is very difficult for her to support a big fighting force. It's hard to say whether the Israelis or Arabs are the stronger—since the Arab lands are getting planes and other equipment from communist countries. The Gaza area belongs to Egypt and has been the scene of much border fighting between that nation and Israel.

appears to agree with many of the ideas of his Red supporters.

Voting in Alaska

Tomorrow, April 24, is a big day for Alaska's 182,000 people. The territory's citizens will vote "yes" or "no" on a proposed state constitution.

Of course, Alaska is not yet a state. It is a U.S. territory whose governor is appointed by the President. Though Alaskans are regarded as Americans, they can't vote in Presidential elections. But they do elect their own legislature. Also, they pick a delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives who has the right to speak on issues before Congress but can't vote.

The new constitution, which was drawn up by a group of Alaskan citizens last winter, provides for an elected governor and a 2-house state legislature. It sets the minimum voting age at 19.

If the voters approve the constitution, Alaska will be ready to go into business as a state whenever Congress gives the word. But there seems little likelihood that statehood will be granted to Alaska this year. The constitution makers of the territory know this. So, if the constitution is approved, Alaskans have decided to try out an idea that Tennessee and some

other territories tried with success when they wanted to become states.

Briefly, the plan is this: In October, Alaska will elect 2 senators and 1 representative to the U.S. Congress just as though it were a state. It will send these people to Washington, D.C., when the new Congress meets in January. The whole country will then watch as Congress decides whether or not it will let the 3 take their seats.

It just might happen, Alaskans say, that Congress will decide to permit the territory's congressmen to stay, and admit Alaska as a state.

Woman President?

Will we have a woman President? That question is being asked by more and more Americans at Presidential election time. Not long ago, state governors were asked to give their views on the subject. Here is the result of the poll:

About 1 out of every 4 governors questioned said we are likely to have a woman as President sometime in the foreseeable future. Some of the others said that a woman would never become President, while still others were uncertain about the political future of feminine leaders. A large number of state executives felt that women would first win the Vice



CHARLES BOHLEN, U. S. Ambassador to Russia. He recently came home to report on rapidly changing conditions in the communist country.

Presidency, and perhaps the Presidency later on.

Some of the prominent women mentioned by the governors as possible Presidential or Vice Presidential candidates include: Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, former Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare; Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine; and Clare Boothe Luce, U.S. Ambassador to Italy.

How do you feel about this issue? Would you vote for a woman Presidential candidate if you had an opportunity to do so?

New Time

In all or parts of 19 states and the District of Columbia, people will lose an hour's sleep this week end. They will move their clocks up one hour on Sunday, April 29, and live by daylight saving time. (A few communities have already gone on the new time.) The purpose of the changed time is to start people working an hour earlier and give them extra daylight after work.

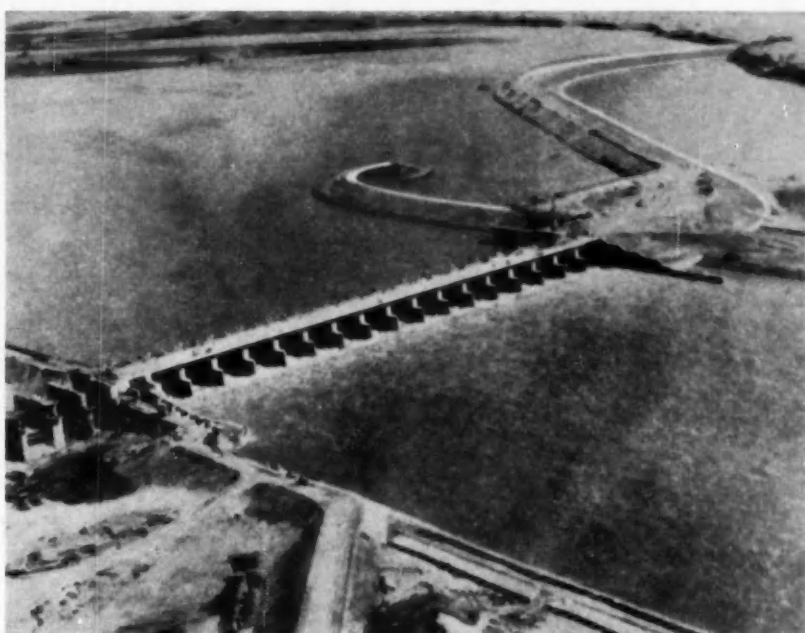
Many countries have tried the daylight saving idea at one time or another. One of the first was Britain, which used it during World War I to save fuel. Several other nations, including the United States, followed the plan during that war. Our nation also used daylight saving time in World War II.

At present, daylight time is used in many cities in the northeast. Farther west and in the South, feeling against it is so strong that some states and counties have laws prohibiting it. Farmers are especially opposed to it. They say their day already starts early enough, and they don't want to get up at a still earlier hour.

Farm Price Supports

Chances are that President Eisenhower will already have killed or approved the farm bill, passed by Congress about 10 days ago, by the time this paper reaches its readers. The Chief Executive has sharply criticized some features of the measure, but he has praised portions of the bill which are based on some of his own suggestions.

Passage of the Democratic-sponsored farm measure is considered by many political observers to be the year's worst defeat for the adminis-



NEW DAM in Iraq to tame the Tigris River. It is expected to prevent floods such as those which drove half a million people from their homes in 1954. The stored water will be used to irrigate 14,000,000 acres of land and to develop electric power. The project has cost about \$45,000,000.

tration on Capitol Hill. The White House had repeatedly asked for a law providing for moderate and flexible government guarantees, or supports, for the prices that farmers get for some of their crops. The congressional act calls for government supports at relatively high and rigid levels.

If the President vetoes the controversial bill, there isn't likely to be any new farm legislation at all this year. It appears improbable that the Democrats in each house of Congress could muster the two-thirds majority vote needed to override a veto.

Meanwhile, one fact is certain—government aid to farmers will be a major issue in the 1956 election campaign.

In a Nutshell

Indonesia's new government, headed by Premier Ali Sastroamidjojo, says it will stay on friendly terms with both the western and the communist countries. Meanwhile, Indonesia is cutting its last remaining ties with the Netherlands. The Southeast Asian land, which won its independence from the Dutch in 1949, has continued certain ties with the former

mother country until the present time.

President Eisenhower wants Congress to provide an additional \$547,000,000 in defense funds to speed up the production of intercontinental bombers and guided missiles. The President's request for additional defense funds came after some congressmen accused the administration of "dragging its feet" in building up a long-range bomber fleet and in developing guided missiles.

Spain's Foreign Minister Alberto Martin Artajo has just paid us a visit—the first time in history that a Spanish foreign minister made an official call on our leaders in Washington, D.C. Martin Artajo and Secretary of State Dulles discussed ways of strengthening friendly ties between Spain and America. At present, we are building military bases in that country for our Navy and Air Force.

Civil Rights Plan

To help "protect the rights of all Americans," President Eisenhower has asked Congress to:

1. Set up a 6-man group to investigate all reports that certain Americans are being deprived of their political and economic rights on account of color, race, religion, or national origin.
2. Establish a special office in the Department of Justice to handle all civil rights cases.
3. Make it possible for any citizen to go directly to a federal court with complaints that his rights are being infringed upon by government officials or private groups. At present, such cases must generally be decided by state courts before they can be heard by federal courts.

The President's proposals are now being hotly debated on Capitol Hill. Some lawmakers support them. Others say they don't go far enough in safeguarding the rights of all Americans. Still other congressmen are highly critical of the plan, saying it would give far too much power to the federal government over matters that are the concern of individual states.

Next Week's Articles

Unless unforeseen developments arise, next week's main articles will deal with (1) immigration, and (2) Turkey.

SPORTS

GRAVERAET High School of Marquette, Michigan, offers a class for those who are interested in the fine old pastime of fishing. Three sessions are devoted to various aspects of the angling sport.

At the first meeting, there is presented an illustrated talk on the fish of Michigan, where they are found, and what can be done to improve the sport. Fishing laws and regulations are explained in another session. The final gathering is devoted to a demonstration of all types of fishing equipment used in the Marquette area.

Michigan conservation officials and a local sporting shop cooperate with the high school in offering the class—a highly popular one with Graveraet students.

★

One of America's best prospects for a gold medal in next fall's Olympic Games is George Breen, a swimmer who attends Cortland (New York) State Teachers College. The lean, 20-year-old athlete has been turning in some amazing performances in the swimming pool.

Late last month he broke the world record in the 1,500-meter race (almost a mile). Not only did he better a mark which had stood for 6 years, but he did it by almost 14 seconds! His time was a fraction less than 18 minutes, 6 seconds.

A week or so later, George swam a mile in about 19 minutes, 41 seconds—another world record. He also won the national championship at 440 yards.

Breen thrashes along in a rather ungraceful way—but leaves the more stylish swimmers far behind. He depends mainly on his powerful arm stroke to drive him through the water



SWIM CHAMP George Breen

at a rapid clip. Superb physical condition is one secret of his success.

George is studying at Cortland State to be a physical education teacher. He makes his home in Buffalo, New York.

★

Nylon and dacron, the long-wearing synthetic fibers, are now being used in tennis balls. The new balls are supposed to wear and retain their bounce longer than the old type.

More than 515,000 dozen tennis balls are sold each year in this country. In championship play, new balls are used frequently. In last year's Davis Cup matches, the players were handed new tennis balls every 7 games.

—By HOWARD SWEET

THE LIGHTER SIDE

Winston Churchill says that men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry on as though nothing had happened.

★

Policeman: How do you know the men who stole your car were professionals?
Motorist: Because no amateur could have started it.



AL SCIRE

"What you mean—I have lived in tepees too long a time?"

The sweet young thing was talking glibly about public problems and expressed her approval of the UN.
"I think it is a very good thing," she said, "but it seems a pity to have so many foreigners in it!"

★

Teacher: Which is farther away—England or the moon?
Johnny: England.
Teacher: What makes you think that?
Johnny: Well, we can see the moon but we can't see England.

★

A pessimist may have his faults, but his ideas about fishing are pretty accurate.

★

Kit: What is a rare volume?
Kat: It's a book you have lent that is returned to you.

★

A lady was entertaining the small son of a friend. "Are you sure you can cut your meat, Willie?" she inquired.
"Oh, yes, thanks," answered the little boy politely. "I've sometimes had it as tough as this at home!"

Stalin Myth

(Continued from page 1)

almost a 'crazy man,' who constantly imagined plots against him and was forever plotting against his closest associates."

Khrushchev's speech was the first gun in the campaign to tear down Stalin. No spur-of-the-moment utterance, it undoubtedly represented the careful plans of the Soviet ruling group, composed of Khrushchev, Premier Nikolai Bulganin, and others.

In recent weeks, various Russian leaders have re-emphasized Khrushchev's statements. The same government-controlled newspapers and radio that once glorified Stalin as almost a god are now busily engaged in tearing him down.

Why did Soviet leaders decide to attack their former leader publicly?

"Stalin is dead," many puzzled observers have pointed out. "As the years pass, he would have been largely forgotten, especially if the present leaders had decided quietly to ignore him."

What, then, is the purpose of the present public attack on him? It must be that the high Soviet officials believe an attack on their former leader will—in the long run—benefit Russia, both at home and in its relations with other lands.

How might the campaign against Stalin help strengthen the Soviet Union at home?

Many close students of the Russian scene feel that attacks on Stalin are part of a program intended to make the Soviet Union more prosperous. They say:

"Soviet leaders are worried about lagging farm production and low factory output per individual. The amount that one farmer or factory worker turns out is nowhere near so much as a similar American worker produces.

"One obstacle in the way of greater production is the failure of most managers, workers, and farmers to show initiative. During the years of Stalin's rule, fear was widespread. The average citizen knew that if he drew attention to himself by making suggestions or putting forth new ideas about his work, he might incur a superior's dislike and end up in prison. Therefore, he learned to get by in the easiest possible way, doing what he was told and no more.

"The present leadership feels that production will rise if workers can be more on their own. Consequently, it is trying to let people know that they may speak up without losing their heads. By attacking Stalin's methods, the present rulers are seeking to remove some of the fears that existed in Stalin's day and still continue."

Will production actually rise if the Soviet people have a little more freedom to act on their own initiative?

That remains to be seen. There is no doubt that ambitious and imaginative factory workers, farmers, and managers are needed to make any country prosperous. The fact is, though, that countries where per capita output is high (the United States, for example) have always been those where political freedom existed.

There is no indication that the



THIS STREET SCENE in Moscow shows that the Soviet Union has made material progress, but it does not show the cost of this progress in terms of human suffering and slavery under the rule of Stalin and other communist leaders

Soviet leaders intend to allow any real political freedom. They are, it is true, taking the lid off just a bit. But while Stalin may now be criticized, there is not the slightest evidence that anyone will be permitted to speak out against the present rulers.

In short, the Soviet officials appear to be trying to gain the benefits of a free society—with its high economic output and standard of living—without actually permitting the people to be free.

What other internal reasons may be behind the anti-Stalin campaign?

The Soviet leaders may be trying to make their own positions more secure by directing resentment at Stalin for the nation's present ills. It is felt, too, that army leaders may have a hand in the campaign to explode the Stalin myth. Many military men bitterly resented Stalin's ruthless actions against their group just before World War II.

Furthermore, it may be that the present leaders—all of whom apparently lived in fear of Stalin, even though they felt compelled to cooperate with him—never again want to find themselves completely under the thumb of one man. In attacking Stalin and his one-man rule, therefore, they are really trying to insure that there

will never again be a one-man dictatorship. (Many observers feel, however, that some member of the present ruling group may yet try to win complete control of the government for himself.)

How might the attack on the former dictator help Russia abroad?

The views of many who have been closely following events in the Soviet Union may be summarized as follows:

"Stalin's harsh and aggressive measures to promote communism throughout the world did not work. They merely alerted the world to the Russian threat. The western nations reacted by strengthening their military forces, and by forming such defense alliances as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

"The Soviet Union's present rulers long ago recognized that Stalin's approach had failed. So they have turned to other tactics. They are now emphasizing 'peace and friendship,' and are trying—with considerable success in some areas—to extend Russian influence through economic and military aid.

"Khrushchev and his colleagues have decided that an attack on Stalin fits in well with the 'peace and friendship' campaign. Stalin's name was widely associated with aggression, and he was

heartily disliked in many countries.

"By attacking him, Russia's leaders are, in effect, saying: 'This proves that we have turned over a new leaf and are a genuine peace-loving nation. Other countries need have no fear of cooperation with us now, nor is there any reason for them to continue their military alliances with the western powers.' In other words, the attack on Stalin is part of a larger campaign to lull the rest of the world into relaxing its defenses against the Soviet threat.

"There may be various other reasons, too. For example, the attack on Stalin may restore good relations between Russia and Yugoslavia. The latter is a communist nation, but it broke with the Soviet Union in 1948 over some of Stalin's tactics. Russia's present rulers are now trying to cement close ties with Yugoslavia again.

"The campaign may also help to strengthen the Reds in France and Italy. Communists there may, by attacking Stalin, gain 'respectability.'"

How are the people of Russia and the satellite countries reacting to the anti-Stalin moves?

In general, the Soviet people seem to be taking a tight-lipped attitude, waiting to see what will happen next. However, the campaign undoubtedly

comes as a shock to many younger people. All citizens up to the age of 33 or so have spent almost their entire lives under Stalin's rule. Again and again they have been told that he was a "great leader" and "military genius." Now they are suddenly informed that their former ruler was neither of these.

In Stalin's home region of Georgia, rioting broke out among students. Apparently it was quickly suppressed. Foreigners were barred from the area.

In several other communist countries, there were a few protests at first over the attacks on Stalin. The Red leaders in these lands are accustomed, though, to following orders from Moscow. Soon, communist officials in the satellite nations were joining enthusiastically in attacks on the former Russian dictator.

In several satellite countries, it was admitted that "treason trials" held during the Stalin era were faked. A number of imprisoned officials in Hungary and Poland were released. Some who had been executed were now declared to have been guiltless all the time.

What effect will these events in Russia have on the world struggle between communism and freedom?

Opinions differ. Some feel that the anti-Stalin campaign will have good results so far as we are concerned. They say:

"The Soviet leaders are now admitting what we have said all along—that Stalin was a dictator and tyrant. This proves to the world that we were right.

"At the same time, these admissions do not reflect very creditably on the present Russian leadership. The record shows that every one of these men served under Stalin, praised him to the skies when he was alive, and helped him carry out his ruthless deeds. Will this knowledge earn the Soviet leaders new friends in other lands?

"Inside Russia, the anti-Stalin campaign may encourage people to speak up a little more freely. Any step—no matter how small—in the direction of democracy is good. By granting the people a little more freedom, the Soviet leaders may be setting loose forces which they cannot control. This might eventually make that country less dictatorial and more cooperative with the free world."

Others feel that the recent moves in Russia will harm us in the long run. They argue:

"A major Soviet goal has been to break up the western defense alliances and to deprive the United States of the use of its bases abroad. The anti-Stalin campaign may lull our allies into thinking that Russia is no longer dangerous and cause them to draw away from us. Certainly this latest move will give us more trouble in keeping the free world knit together in the face of the Red threat.

"We must never forget that Russia's aim is world conquest. In the anti-Stalin campaign, there is no indication that the Soviet Union has changed its goal. Only the tactics have changed. The Russian leaders apparently feel that they can attain their goal more easily by belittling Stalin than by holding him up as a hero."

U. S. officials will continue to watch closely the effects of these latest Soviet moves, both inside Russia and in other countries.

—By HOWARD SWEET



DRAWN FOR AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON

A Problem in Iceland

Will American Forces Be Asked to Leave?

A FEW weeks ago, the government of Iceland indicated that it might soon ask for a withdrawal of United States defense forces. The matter will definitely be decided after a parliamentary election to be held in June.

This news came as a shock to our country and other non-communist lands. Iceland is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and is considered a valuable link in the military chain of the western powers.

Description of Country

Let us take a brief glance at this small island nation and the reasons why it figures so heavily in the defense plans of the free world.

Iceland has a land area of about 39,000 square miles, approximately the same size as our state of Kentucky. She has 160,000 inhabitants, some 60,000 of whom live in the capital city of Reykjavik. The people are of Scandinavian stock. They are descendants of Viking bands that migrated to the island over a thousand years ago.

The climate is quite mild considering the fact that the northern part of the country touches the Arctic Circle. The Gulf Stream keeps winter temperatures as high as those in New York City—or at an average of about 33 degrees. In the summer the temperature stays close to 50.



ICELANDIC girl in costume

About 60 per cent of Iceland's employed population is engaged in some kind of industrial work. The canning and processing of fish, shoe manufacturing, electronics, and chemicals are a few of the major industries.

Fishing provides a livelihood for about 15 per cent of Iceland's people. Cod and herring are two of the most prized catches. The remainder of the population is occupied in agriculture. Since little of the land is suitable for growing crops, most farms concentrate mainly on the raising of livestock.

Exports consist almost exclusively of frozen and canned fish, and fish products such as cod-liver oil. The bulk of Iceland's trade is carried on with the United States, Russia, and Great Britain.

Iceland has a democratic government with a president, who serves a 4-year term, and a parliament. Both are elected directly by the people.

Why We Want Base

The country has no army or navy. Because of this fact and the island's strategic position, our leaders are especially interested in maintaining a base there. At present, it consists of several radar stations, an Air Force fighter squadron, and small infantry and naval units. About 4,000 men are stationed at this military outpost, which is located some 20 miles from Reykjavik.

The base is considered valuable because it helps to protect the Western Hemisphere from a possible Soviet air attack across the Arctic. During wartime, it would also help us in waging a campaign against submarines in the Atlantic.

The people of Iceland are well-educated and independent. It is natural that they should become tired of having foreign troops in their country. They remind us that American military forces were also based there during World War II. Furthermore, a number of people in Iceland apparently feel that Russia is no longer intent on world conquest and that there is little need to maintain a base on the island.

The reply to these views is as follows: "Iceland, in 1951, requested that U. S. troops be stationed there. Our country doesn't like the idea of sending its men overseas, but it does

Divided by Three

By Clay Coss

LET us consider the personality and character traits of three different types of boys and girls. These are imaginary cases, but each type actually represents a large number of young people.

Jack is a person who goes along with the crowd. He automatically approves the ideas and actions of other members of his group. He uses the same slang expressions and mannerisms. He dresses as the other boys do.

In every way, Jack models himself along the lines of his companions. It makes no difference to him whether their conduct is good or bad—whether they are right or wrong in what they're doing and saying—he follows them without question.

Jack is an extreme conformist. He completely fits in with members of his group and conforms with their every wish and action. His critics say that he is like a sheep following the flock—that he cannot act or think for himself.

Sue is just the opposite of Jack. She is determined to be different from others. If her schoolmates dress one way, she deliberately wears other styles of clothes. If they fix their hair in a certain way, she does hers in another.

In conversations, actions, and everything else, Sue refuses to conform with her associates any more than is necessary. She is an extreme non-conformist. Her critics say that she has a superiority complex.



Clay Coss

Dan follows a middle course between these two.

He likes to be sociable, and to engage in group activities. Much of the time, he goes along with the rest of his crowd. If he disagrees with the opinions or actions of his friends, however, he does not hesitate to say what he thinks.

In other words, Dan conforms with others on a give-and-take basis. He does not slavishly follow in the footsteps of his friends. He desires to associate with others, but he also wants to maintain his independence in deciding what he will or will not do, as well as what is right or wrong. In short, he goes along with the crowd unless he sees some really good reason for not doing so.

Dan is criticized at times for being too independent, and at other times for being too much of a conformist.

Which of these three types do you feel is preferable?

so to help the free world survive. Russia has done little in the way of action to back up her talk of wanting peace. It should be clear that she remains a great menace to all free nations."

Iceland and the United States live by the same basic principles. It is hoped that they will continue to stand together in the defense of these common beliefs.

—By TIM COSS

We must fight our way through, not alone to the destruction of our enemies, but to a new world idea. We must win the peace.

—WENDELL L. WILLKIE

Career for Tomorrow - - - As Iron Worker

JOB opportunities for trained iron workers, particularly in the field of ornamental metal work, are likely to be good for many years to come, says the United States Department of Labor.

Your duties, if you decide on this field, will depend upon the specific branch of work you choose.

Structural iron workers rivet or weld together the steel parts used in putting up large and small structures. They erect the steel framework of skyscrapers and other buildings, construct steel bridges, install steel towers and tanks, and, in general, work with steel wherever it is used in construction.

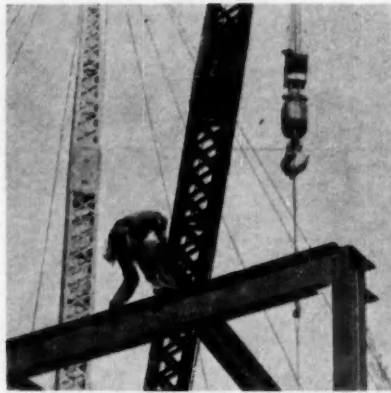
The **ornamental iron worker** installs decorative metal, such as wrought-iron railing or ornamental iron and aluminum porch columns, in private homes and other buildings. He also works with iron and steel stairways, doors, windows, and other metal fixtures used in the building industry.

Your qualifications should include a strong back and good physical coordination. If you plan to be a structural iron worker, you will also need a good sense of balance, for you will often have to work in high places. Ornamental iron workers must have some artistic ability in addition to manual dexterity.

Your preparation, after you finish high school, should include 2 years or more of apprenticeship training. This program, which is supervised by labor unions in the field, includes on-the-job training and some classroom instruc-

tion. The *apprentice* who has successfully completed his training becomes a *journeyman*, or fully qualified iron worker.

You can also get your training by working as a helper without a formal apprenticeship program. But because this field is highly unionized, it is difficult to become a journeyman through such a plan.



STEEL WORKER on a high perch

Job openings can be found with building contractors engaged in new construction work, or with firms that make alterations and repairs in existing buildings. In addition, ornamental iron workers can go into business for themselves.

Structural steel workers are often required to travel about from place to place, for most contractors in this field undertake projects in communities scattered over a fairly wide area of the country. Ornamental iron work-

ers, on the other hand, are generally employed by local firms and are seldom required to do extensive traveling while on the job.

Your earnings are likely to vary, depending upon your skill and experience, and on the locality in which you work. Structural steel workers earn, on an average, about \$3.00 an hour, or \$120 for a 40-hour week. In most eastern cities the wage scales are above \$3.00, while in southern and western cities they are generally below that figure.

Earnings of ornamental iron workers are usually a bit lower than those of the structural workers. An apprentice in both fields, as a rule, earns about half as much as a journeyman does.

Advantages include the relatively high hourly pay. Also, there are good opportunities for starting a business of your own in the ornamental iron field.

Disadvantages are (1) employment is not always steady, for construction work slows down in bad weather and during a business depression; and (2) some of the jobs in structural steel work can be rather dangerous. On the other hand, numerous new safety devices have been adopted in recent years to reduce the chances of accidents while on the job.

Further information can be secured from the International Association of Bridge, Structural, and Ornamental Iron Workers, Continental Building, 3615 Olive Street, St. Louis 8, Missouri. —By ANTON BERLE

News Quiz

Nation's Housing

1. According to Housing Administrator Albert Cole, what is the purpose of the Women's Congress on Housing? What do many critics of the Eisenhower administration say about this meeting?
2. List several ways in which slums harm our nation as a whole.
3. Do slums account for all of our housing problems? Explain.
4. What events in the 1930's and 1940's tended to create a bad housing situation in this country?
5. During the last several years, have housing conditions improved, become worse, or stayed about the same?
6. How does the federal government help people obtain loans for the purpose of buying homes?
7. Give arguments for and against public-housing programs.
8. What are some of the factors that make slum clearance difficult?

Discussion

1. On the basis of your present knowledge, do you or do you not favor the establishment of any public-housing projects for low-income families? Explain your position.
2. If your city or community has slums or blighted areas, are steps being taken to clear them away? If so, describe what is being done.

Stalin Controversy

1. During what years did Stalin rule?
2. How was the dictator always pictured—until recently—inside the Soviet Union?
3. What criticism are Russia's leaders making of Stalin today?
4. In what ways may affairs within their country have influenced the Soviet rulers in their campaign?
5. How may they have felt that an attack on Stalin would help Russia in her relations with other lands?
6. Describe the public reaction inside the Soviet Union and other Red lands to the new policy toward Stalin.
7. Give the views of those who think the anti-Stalin campaign may have favorable results for the United States.
8. What are the feelings of those who say that the attack may be harmful to us?

Discussion

1. What do you think is the most urgent reason why the anti-Stalin campaign was launched? Explain.
2. Do you think this campaign will smooth U. S.-Soviet relations, or will it make them more troubled? Give reasons for your point of view.

Miscellaneous

1. What are some of Mr. Bohlen's qualifications for the post of American envoy to Russia?
2. Why does Senator Neuberger want Congress to install electric voting machines?
3. Why are western leaders concerned about recent election results in the Commonwealth nation, Ceylon?
4. Through what method is Alaska hoping to become a state?
5. Do you think it would be a good idea to have a woman as the nation's President? Why, or why not?
6. Briefly describe President Eisenhower's civil rights proposals.

References

- "Slum Clearance Pays Extra Dividends," by Donald Robinson, *Reader's Digest*, November 1955.
- "Communist Party Congress: The Break with Stalinism," by Isaac Deutscher, *The Reporter*, March 22, 1956.
- "Behind Russia's Mask," *Newsweek*, April 2, 1956.

Answers to Your Vocabulary

1. (b) abundant; 2. (a) predicament; 3. (c) skeptical; 4. (d) part; 5. (b) shyness; 6. (a) excuse; 7. (d) harmless.

Historical Background - - - America's Homes

DID you ever wish you were alive in the exciting days when our forefathers lived in log cabins?

Your home would probably have only one room, with a loft and a pile of straw for sleeping purposes. The floor would be hard-packed earth, which sometimes would change to sticky mud during heavy rains. Oiled paper or animal skins over openings in the wall would serve as windows.

In the wintertime, you would sit as close to the fireplace as you dared in an effort to keep warm. While the hot fire nearly scorched your face, you would feel an uncomfortably cold draft of air on your back. The burning logs or a candle would serve as light.

Of course, most early Americans weren't satisfied to stay for any length of time in such crude shelters. As soon as they had a roof over their heads, they began to make plans for more comfortable dwellings. Log cabins were enlarged. New homes were built out of handhewn timbers, stones, or bricks. The thatch or bark on the roof was replaced by wooden shingles, clay tile, or some other material.

During the 1800's, homes gradually became more and more comfortable. Stoves were used for heating in place of fireplaces, and lamps that burned fat or oil replaced candles for lighting.

By the 1820's, gas was already used for lighting by some communities, while gas stoves for cooking came into use a few decades later. At the close of the 1800's, electricity began to replace gas for lighting.

Meanwhile, our cities grew by leaps and bounds. In 1800, New York City had only a few thousand inhabitants. Sixty years later it was the home of 600,000 people—the third largest city in the world at that time.

As the cities grew, so did the slum housing areas, particularly near the factories that were springing up in the 1800's. In many cases, employers built dwellings for their workers. Though some of these workers' homes were clean and airy, many of them were drab, dingy, and cramped for space.

For many years, there were few laws governing housing conditions. Wooden dwellings were built with as many as 5 floors without proper fire escapes. Many buildings had rooms with no outside windows or ventilation of any kind. There were very few sanitary facilities, and garbage was usually thrown out into the street, breeding flies, rats, and other carriers of disease.

Living conditions in the slums during the second half of the 1800's were graphically described by Jacob

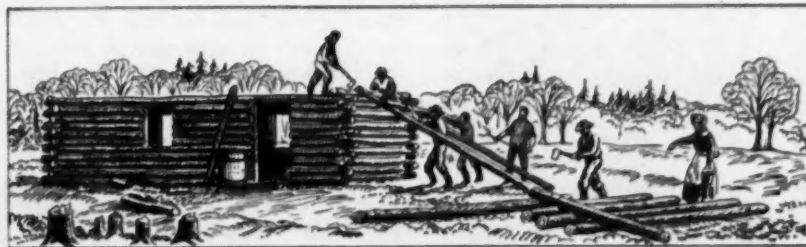
Riis, a social worker and newsman, in his "How the Other Half Lives." He describes a visit to a crowded tenement house in this way:

"The hall is dark, and you might stumble over the children. . . . All the fresh air that ever enters those stairs comes from the hall door that is forever slamming. . . . The sinks are in the hallways, so that all the tenants may have access. . . ."

Though Riis and others of his time called on the cities to do something to fight slums, little was done about the problem until the present century was well under way.

While most cities did enact certain sanitary rules and building codes before the end of the 1800's, it wasn't until the 1900's that many of them launched anti-slum programs. At the same time, more and more private groups also began building bright, airy homes and apartments to replace shabby, gray tenements. While housing conditions have greatly improved, there is still much to be done in this field (see page 1 article).

—By ANTON BERLE



IN PIONEER DAYS, neighbors helped one another to build homes of logs